

program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. If the amendment is deemed adequate, it will become a part of the Wyoming program.

1. Written Comments

Written comments should be specific, pertain only to the issues proposed in this rulemaking, and include explanations in support of the commenter's recommendations. Comments received after the time indicated under "DATES" or at locations other than the Casper Field Office will not necessarily be considered in the final rulemaking or included in the administrative record.

2. Public Hearing

Persons wishing to testify at the public hearing should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** by 4:00 p.m., m.s.t., January 2, 1996. Any disabled individual who has need for a special accommodation to attend a public hearing should contact the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The location and time of the hearing will be arranged with those persons requesting the hearing. If no one requests an opportunity to testify at the public hearing, the hearing will not be held.

Filing of a written statement at the time of the hearing is requested as it will greatly assist the transcriber. Submission of written statements in advance of the hearing will allow OSM officials to prepare adequate responses and appropriate questions.

The public hearing will continue on the specified date until all persons scheduled to testify have been heard. Persons in the audience who have not been scheduled to testify, and who wish to do so, will be heard following those who have been scheduled. The hearing will end after all persons scheduled to testify and persons present in the audience who wish to testify have been heard.

3. Public Meeting

If only one person requests an opportunity to testify at a hearing, a public meeting, rather than a public hearing, may be held. Persons wishing to meet with OSM representatives to discuss the proposed amendment may request a meeting by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All such meetings will be open to the public and, if possible, notices of meeting will be posted at the locations listed under **ADDRESSES**. A written summary of each meeting will be made a part of the administrative record.

IV. Procedural Determinations

1. Executive Order 12866

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

2. Executive Order 12778

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 2 of Executive Order 12778 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that this rule meets the applicable standards of subsections (a) and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State regulatory programs and program amendments since each program is drafted and promulgated by a specific State, not by OSM. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR Parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

3. National Environmental Policy Act

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

4. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*).

5. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of the Interior has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The State submittal that is the subject of this rule is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that

existing requirements previously promulgated by OSM will be implemented by the State. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions for the counterpart Federal regulations.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 950

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining

Dated: December 7, 1995.

Russell F. Price,

Acting Regional Director, Western Regional Coordinating Center.

[FR Doc. 95-30649 Filed 12-15-95; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. RM95-4; Order No. 1094]

39 CFR Part 3001

Rules of Practice and Procedure

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rulemaking; extension of time.

SUMMARY: The Commission is extending the time for the filing of comments on draft rules of practice and procedure published at 60 FR 54981-89.

DATES: Comments on the draft rules of practice and procedure must be submitted on or before January 8, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments and correspondence should be sent to Margaret P. Crenshaw, Secretary of the Commission, 1333 H Street, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20268-0001 (telephone 202/789-6840).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, Legal Advisor, Postal Rate Commission, 1333 H Street, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20268-0001 (telephone 202/789-6820).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 27, 1995, Order No. 1084, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, was published at 60 FR 54981-89. This Notice presented draft rules that were founded on rules initially proposed by the United States Postal Service in a Petition filed April 13, 1995. However, the Commission's draft rules incorporated views expressed and suggestions made in comments filed by twenty-one participants. The deadline established for comments on the Commission's draft rules was December 26, 1995. Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing comments on the draft rules is extended to January 8, 1996.

The Commission is concerned that the initial deadline for filing comments, December 26, 1995, falls at an inconvenient time, in the midst of the holiday season. As a courtesy to those planning to file comments on the draft rules and in the interest of obtaining comments based on a thorough review of the draft rules, the Commission has conferred this extension. It is Ordered:

1. Comments addressing the draft rules published at 60 FR 54981-89 are now due on January 8, 1996.

2. The Secretary shall publish this Notice and Order in the Federal Register.

Issued by the Commission on December 12, 1995.

Margaret P. Crenshaw,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-30640 Filed 12-15-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 95-141; RM-8642]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Frederiksted, VI and Culebra and Carolina, PR

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; dismissal.

SUMMARY: The Commission dismisses the petition for rule making filed by Jose J. Arzuaga, proposing the allotment of Channel 298B1 at Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, as its third local FM transmission service (RM-8642). See 60 FR 46563, September 7, 1995. We also dismiss petitioner's counterproposal to allotment Channel 293B in lieu of Channel 298B1 at Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, and to allot Channel 298B1 at Culebra, Puerto Rico. The petitioner has abandoned his interest in a Class B1 allotment at Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, and there are no other timely expressions of interest for the channel. In addition, petitioner's counterproposal is not consistent with the Commission's technical requirements. With this action, this proceeding is terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Report and Order*, MM Docket No. 95-141, adopted November 30, 1995, and released December 11, 1995. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying

during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractors, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 95-30615 Filed 12-15-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-F

47 CFR Parts 73 and 76

[MM Docket No. 95-176; FCC 95-484]

In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry.

SUMMARY: This Notice of Inquiry solicits comment on the current availability, cost, and uses of closed captioning and video description of television video programming. This information will provide the Commission a record on these important services, which benefit individuals with disabilities. It will also enable the Commission to assess what further actions may be appropriate to promote these services.

DATES: Interested parties may file comments on or before January 29, 1996, and reply comments on or before February 14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Logan, (202) 776-1653.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Inquiry in MM Docket No. 95-176, FCC 95-484, adopted December 1, 1995 and released on December 4, 1995. The complete text of this Notice is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and also may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 857-3800.

Synopsis of Notice of Inquiry

1. The Notice seeks information on the current availability, cost, and uses of closed captioning and video description, and also asks comment on what further Commission actions may be appropriate to promote these services. It also seeks comment on the appropriate means of promoting their wider use in programming delivered by television broadcasters, cable operators, and other video programming providers.

I. Background

2. Captioning is similar to subtitles in that it displays the audio portion of a television signal as printed words on the television screen. To assist viewers who are hearing disabled, captions also identify speakers, sound effects, music, and laughter. Video description provides audio descriptions of a program's key visual elements that are inserted during the natural pauses in the program's dialogue.

3. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed bills (H.R. 1555 and S. 652), which, if enacted, would require the Commission to adopt regulations to ensure that video programming is accessible to persons with hearing disabilities through the provision of closed captioning, including requiring "video programming providers or owners" to maximize the accessibility of previously published or exhibited programs by adding closed captioning. Both bills would allow the Commission to exempt programs from these requirements in certain circumstances, including circumstances where the closed captioning would impose an unreasonable financial burden. The House bill would require the Commission to conduct an inquiry into the current extent of closed captioning as well as other issues. In addition, both bills would require the Commission to study the use of video description. The House bill further provides that the Commission may adopt regulation it deems necessary to promote the accessibility of video programming to persons with visual impairments.

II. The Public Interest Benefits of Closed Captioning and Video Description

4. The Notice asks parties to elaborate on the importance and nature of the public interest benefits of closed captioning and video description. It asks parties to submit information regarding the number of individuals with hearing and vision disabilities in this country who can benefit from these innovations, including the basis for such estimates.